Application No. 09/668,438 Inventor: Motoki KATO et al. Preliminary Amendment

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6, 10-20, 24-28, 43, 44, and 46-73 are currently pending in this application; Claims 1-5, 10-12, 15-20, 24-28, 43, 44, and 46-55 having been amended; Claims 7-9, 21-23, 29-42 and 45 having been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer; and new Claims 57-73 having been added by this amendment.

Support for new Claims 57-73 can be found at least in the specification and claims as originally filed. The amendment of claims 1-5, 10-12, 15-20, 24-28, 43, 44, and 46-55 have been provided to correct cosmetic matters of form only. Thus, no new matter is added.

Therefore, the present application is believed to be in condition for a full and thorough examination on the merits. And early and favorable consideration of the present application is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

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